

Canaan experience. Now I speak of these things simply to show that we may cause our good to be evil spoken of by this wreckless use of God's word. Let us not wrest the scriptures (II Pet. 3:16), it brings destruction upon us, and dishonor upon God's cause. To strain a point is to weaken our position. Truth is many sided. It will not do to lay hold of one side to the neglect or exclusion of any part of its numerous sides. It makes us lop sided, and a lop sided tree is easily uprooted. Let us also remember that he who wrote the eighth chapter of Romans, also wrote I Tim. 1:5, and especially note the fact that long after he wrote the eighth chapter of Romans he said, "I am the chief of sinners." Mark you, "*I am*," not, "*I was*."

No contradiction here. In the one case he speaks from the natural point of view, in the other, from the spiritual, bringing out both sides of this wonderful truth.

Another illustration: Supernatural healing is another gospel doctrine greatly abused by many because of a misapplication of the word, thereby causing even the truth itself to be evil spoken of. I speak now of those who claim that since "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," therefore his true followers today should be able to do exactly the same things that were done by the apostles, and yet these same teachers can not possibly take their own medicine. Please turn to Matt. 10:7, 8. The same one who said, "Heal the sick," also commanded, "Cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."

Many present day "divine healers" (?) talk loud and long upon the first part of this great commission, but they pass over the other part without comment. In every case where they undertake to heal and fail you will usually hear some excuses like these: "They are not fully saved;" "there is sin in the heart;" "their life is not what it should be;" etc. Or in many cases the blame is heaped on the shoulders of some relative, perhaps the parents.

Even little children left to die in many cases because as these same people say, that their parents are unsaved, or have an evil spirit of some kind.

Now why not in such cases first cast out that evil spirit, and afterward heal, because the same Christ that commanded his chosen ones to heal, also commanded them to cast out devils, and to even *raise the dead*. Read Matt. 10:1.

To me the doctrine of supernatural healing as revealed in God's word is most precious, also the doctrine of holiness or sanctification and therefore it grieves me to see these things evil spoken of because of wrong teaching.

God's word is a unit, and there is perfect harmony if we use that key of wisdom which he places before every true heart that trembles at his Word even tho some pet theory or some delightful "hobby" has to die an awful death. Let God be true even if man must be counted a liar.

We frequently find good people clinging

tenaciously to some practice or theory, not because it is founded upon divine authority, but because they say it is a "*time honored*" custom. The great question should be, "*Is it Christ honored?*" And he honors nothing that is not in perfect agreement with the whole truth. This is the only infallible test. Follow it and our good will not be evil spoken of. None dare question this position.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PARABLES—"THE TALENTS."

I Interpretation of parable. Matt. 25:14-30

- a. Notice it is spoken in answer to the question in Matt. 24:3.
- b. A talent—about \$935.
- c. What was the "far country?" John 14:2, 3.
- d. Exchangers v. 27—bankers. Usury interest.
- e. Who are the servants? John 20:21; John 13:16.
- f. What are the goods delivered to us? I Cor. 6:20; 7:23; Hag. 2:8; Ps. 50:10-12.

II. Teachings.

- a. We are all given trusts according to our ability, II Cor. 8:12, and we are judged for the way we use what we have.
- b. No man is held accountable for another man's talent.
- c. The sin of the one-talent man was in what he didn't do. To be Christ's servants we must *do* something. Matt. 5:16; Ez. 33:8, 9.
- d. Parable of the virgins teaches watchfulness; this one teaches diligence. Rom. 12:11. I Sam. 21:8.
- e. He that uses what ability he has in any line will have it increased. v. 29.
- f. Increase and growth is a law which we cannot ignore with safety. II Pet. 3:18.
- g. Let us not hide our Lord's gifts, or keep them unused, but use them for His glory. Jude 24 and Heb. 13:18.

J. L. GILLIN.

The Mission Field

Chicago Mission

On February 23, brother Harry Gross of the U. S. army made us a very pleasant call, just on the eve of his departure for Manila, where he goes to join his regiment, which is the 14th Infantry Company I, of the U. S. Regulars, which is stationed somewhere in the Philippine Islands, he did not know where, but promised to write us as soon as he arrived, which will be in about six weeks. Brother Harry had been very sick, having taken down in Cuba, and was sent to the hospital in Chicago, but had no recollection of when he arrived in this country, and lay in the Chicago hospital many weeks before he realized anything, and was surprised when his attendants told him he was in Chicago. He will have a long trip to Manila. Harry looked thin and weak, but was rapidly recuperating from his long illness. He had not forgot his Lord nor his brethren, and said he was stronger in the belief of the Breth-

ren church's position with regard to war, than ever before, but he had many kind words to say of his comrades and the officers of his regiment.

On March 15, we were very agreeably surprised, when brother and sister C. Rowland, of Lanark, Ill., came in on us, and spent the night with us. And on the 16th, brother Wiser Blough, on his return from a winter visit to friends in Pennsylvania, called and spent the night with us, and left us some good Pennsylvania Maple sugar.

Not so Pleasant. Last week, Friday, I was taken sick rather suddenly, with every symptom of having eaten some of the meat that was sent to the soldiers in Cuba, and after several hours' intense suffering, I too, felt like ordering an investigation. The incident spoiled my anticipated visit to Goshen, Ind., where I was to have preached for brother C. F. Yoder, while he held forth in our Mission here. Brother Yoder preached a good sermon for us, which was enjoyed by all who heard him, and after meeting he and brother Frank called on me, and we had a few minutes' visit, even tho I was too weak to sit up. But the Lord be praised, I am well again, and performing my duties in his name. There has been, and is now, much sickness around us, sore throats and fever. There has been much scarlet fever, but the Lord has been good to us, while we have visited among it, ministering to the needs of others, our family have escaped with nothing more severe than tonsillitis, colds and sore throat. Brother Lyons, you have our sympathy and prayers, that God may bless you all with health and power for his service.

A Tract. Some time ago, I mentioned our need of literature. I have now prepared a good general tract for our use in mission work, and wish to have it printed. To get out the edition we need, will cost about fifteen or twenty dollars. The Ms. is now in Bro. Gnagey's hands for publication. Will you not help us to get it published? All money you may send for this purpose, will be used for printing tracts, and nothing else. The Missionary Board needs tracts. This money will be paid into our own publishing house. Will you not help us in this matter? The title of the tract is, "The Conclusion of the Whole Matter." All who will send us money for this purpose will be remembered with samples of the tract, and careful account will be made of all donations and reports made of same. We will call this our "Missionary Tract Fund." Who will be first to give it a start? If we can get this and some other tracts printed, that we have in contemplation, it will very much help us to answer many questions that are asked us. I shall spend no more money on "circular advertisements." When we pay out money for printing, we want to say something. And good clear spiritual tracts will preach sermons in homes, where we can not go. Heaven only can tell the power of these silent preachers.

J. O. TALLEY.

517 Warren Ave., Chicago, Ill.